

DDWG Change of Command

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK COLONEL LOUIS NEELEY; WARM DDC WELCOME TO COLONEL JOSEPH UDEMI

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office



Col Joseph Udem, USAF

On April 17, 2003, Colonel Louis Neeley, United States Air Force, relinquished command of the Defense Distribution Depot Warner Robins, Georgia (DDWG) in a ceremony officiated by Brigadier General Kathleen M. Gainey, United States Army, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC).

To begin the ceremony, General Gainey presented Colonel Neeley and the DDWG workforce with the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA). The award was issued to the Defense Logistics Agency and all Field Activities for the superior support to elements of the United States Armed Forces participating in Operations Noble Force and Enduring Freedom while maintaining outstanding support to on-going Balkan operations. The efforts of DLA, DDC, and DDWG significantly contributed to the Nation's homeland security and war fighting efforts.

As the flag was passed from Colonel Neeley to Colonel Udem, Neeley, DDWG's Commander since September 2001, bid his workforce and customers an emotional farewell. Neeley departs DDWG for his new assignment as Air Force National Inventory Management Strategy Program Manager, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Colonel Udem, who's most recent assignment was as Director of Logistics, Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia, and

the Logistics Readiness Center Director, Combined Forces Air Component Commander, Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was solely responsible for coordinating all logistics support in the US Central Command, and the Joint Task Force – Southwest Asia. Udem accepted the challenge and stated through his personal experience, "In Saudi Arabia, for our protection, we lived and worked behind barbed wire and guard towers. In the year I spent there, I only left the base three times. This definitely gave me a new appreciation for something we sometimes take for granted – Freedom. Freedom is what we are fighting for in the global war on terrorism; Freedom is what our distribution center is supporting as we ship the critical parts and supplies used to keep the aircraft flying. We must remember who we are supporting . . . the young men and women stationed throughout the globe who depend on us each and every day." Udem concluded with a special thank you to General Gainey for the opportunity to serve with the DDC, and he graciously thanked his predecessor for his outstanding contributions to DDWG. His final note to his new workforce, "We must continue to focus on those we support and the freedom we are all striving to preserve and maintain."

DLA GOAL . . .

Provide responsive, best value
supplies and services consistently to
our customers.